

Members

Sen. Robert Jackman, Chairperson
Sen. Brandt Hershman
Sen. Johnny Nugent
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Larry Lutz
Rep. Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson
Rep. Markt Lytle
Rep. Ronald Liggett
Rep. Robert Cherry
Rep. Don Lehe
Rep. Marlin Stutzman



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 19, 2004
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 130
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Sen. Robert Jackman, Chairperson; Sen. Brandt Hershman;
Sen. Johnny Nugent; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Larry Lutz; Rep.
Robert Bischoff, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Markt Lytle; Rep.
Ronald Liggett; Rep. Robert Cherry; Rep. Don Lehe; Rep. Marlin
Stutzman.

Members Absent: Sen. James Lewis.

I. Call to order

Senator Jackman called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. Dog tax

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Senator Jackman called for discussion of PD 3381, addressing the dog tax. This preliminary draft would make the following changes with respect to the dog tax and related matters:

- Provides for a local option animal companion tax, not to exceed \$5 per animal companion, to maintain or operate animal care facilities.
- Replaces the current state dog tax and kennel fee with a state dog tax imposed at a rate of \$0.50 per dog owned.
- Abolishes the dog census.
- Retains the town option dog tax of \$2 per dog.
- Eliminates the township and county dog funds and the dog account of the state general fund and provides for the disposition of money in the funds and the account.
- Requires reporting of dogs on the state income tax return.
- Establishes the dog tax board (board) and the state dog tax account (account).
- Provides that the board administers the account.
- Requires township trustees to submit animal kill claims to the board.
- Provides for the use of money in the account to pay for: (1) animal kill claims; (2) canine disease research; and (3) canine research and education.

Wendy Hoffspiegel of the Animal Advocacy Network of Indiana stated that she believed that this draft was a good approach for dealing with the dog tax issue. In order to address the pet auction issue, however, she believes that more funding is needed at the local level to support animal control in each county. She believes that the state board of animal health may also have a roll to play in dealing with pet auctions.

The Committee voted 11-0 to recommend the adoption of PD 3381, with certain minor amendments.

III. Horse racing

Senator Jackman called for discussion of PD 3493, dealing with pull-tabs at race tracks, as follows:

- Authorizes the sale of pari-mutuel pull tabs at racetracks and at satellite facilities located in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.
- Imposes a wagering tax of 32% of the adjusted gross receipts from the sale of pari-mutuel pull tabs.
- Redirects certain riverboat admissions taxes from the horse racing commission to the property tax replacement fund.
- Provides for the annual distribution of pari-mutuel pull tab wagering taxes as follows: (1) the first \$27,205,284 to the horse racing commission to be used in the same manner as riverboat admissions taxes are currently used; and (2) the remainder to the property tax replacement fund. Imposes a horse racing promotion fee of 15% of the adjusted gross receipts from pari-mutuel pull tabs.
- Provides for the distribution of the fees to purses, breed development, and the associations representing owners, breeders, and trainers.

The Committee voted 9-2 to recommend the adoption of PD 3493, with certain minor amendments.

IV. Final report

Senator Jackman called for discussion of the final report. The Committee voted

11-0 to adopt the final report.

The Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.